

B. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A putter head comprising:

a toe portion;

a heel portion;

a generally vertically extending wall, the wall having a front strike face, a rear portion, an upper layer, and a lower layer, the upper layer, the lower layer and the rear portion each extending from the heel portion to the toe portion to define a recess rearwardly extending into the wall from the strike face, the rear portion of the wall being formed with variable thickness thereby providing the recess with a variable rearward depth;

a sole portion rearwardly extending from a lower region of the wall, the sole portion having a rearmost surface; and

a single, one-piece insert substantially filling the recess and connected to the wall, the insert having a front facing surface, a top surface, a bottom surface and a rear surface, generally the entire surface area of the front facing surface of the insert being exposed, the top and bottom surfaces being substantially covered by the wall, the front facing surface of the insert being substantially coplanar with the front strike face, the insert including a center portion having a first rearward depth, the putter head having a second rearward depth measured from the front strike face of the front wall to the rearmost surface of the sole portion, the first depth being less than fifty percent of the second depth.

2. (currently amended) The putter head of claim 1, ~~further comprising a sole portion rearwardly extending from a lower region of the wall, and~~ wherein the sole portion has an upper surface, and wherein the upper surface has a sight line positioned substantially perpendicular to the strike face.

3. (currently amended) The putter head of claim 1, ~~further comprising a sole portion rearwardly extending from a lower region of the wall, and~~ wherein the sole portion has an

3 elongate through-sole slot disposed rearward of the insert and generally parallel to the strike
4 face.

1 4. (original) The putter head of claim 1, wherein the wall includes an upper rear edge
2 generally extending from the heel portion to the toe portion, and wherein the upper rear edge is
3 substantially parallel with the strike face to provide a top alignment line.

1 5. (original) The putter head of claim 1, wherein the insert is a lightweight material
2 selected from the group consisting of a urethane, an epoxy resin, a thermoplastic, a thermoset
3 material, an elastomer, and combinations thereof.

1 6. (original) The putter head of claim 1, wherein the insert is made of a translucent
2 material.

1 7. (original) The putter head of claim 1, wherein the insert is formed in a shape
2 selected from the group consisting of trapezoidal, triangular, polygonal, semi-circular, semi-
3 elliptical, and combinations thereof.

Claim 8 is previously cancelled without prejudice.

1 9. (original) The putter head of claim 1, wherein the recess extends substantially
2 across the entire width of the strike face.

1 10. (original) The putter head of claim 1, wherein the insert is castably formed to
2 the wall without the use of an adhesive.

1 11. (previously amended) The putter head of claim 1, wherein the strike surface has
2 an intended strike region, and wherein the exposed front facing surface extends across the
3 intended strike region of the strike face.

1 12. (original) The putter head of claim 1, wherein the insert is formed of a material
2 having a durometer of between 40 and 65 on a Shore A hardness scale.

1 13. (original) The putter head of claim 1, wherein the insert is formed of a material
2 having a durometer of between 45 and 55 on a Shore A hardness scale.

1 14. (currently amended) The putter head of claim 1, wherein the center portion of
2 the insert includes a center portion, is positioned between a toe end portion and a heel end
3 portion, wherein the ~~center~~, toe and heel portions of the insert have ~~first, second and third~~ and
4 fourth rearward depths, respectively, and wherein the first rearward depth of the center portion
5 is greater than either of the ~~second and third~~ and fourth rearward depths.

1 15. (currently amended) A putter head comprising:
2 a generally vertically extending wall having a front strike face and a rear
3 surface, the wall having an insert region at the strike face defining a rearwardly extending
4 recess of varying rearward depth; ~~and~~
5 a sole portion rearwardly extending from a lower region of the wall, the sole
6 portion having a rearmost surface; and
7 only one insert castably formed in the recess of the insert region, the insert
8 having a front facing surface and a variable rearward depth to substantially fill the recess, the
9 insert contacting the insert region of the wall, substantially the entire surface area of the front
10 facing surface of the insert being substantially coplanar with the front strike face, the insert
11 including a center portion having a first rearward depth, the putter head having a second
12 rearward depth measured from the front strike face of the front wall to the rearmost surface of
13 the sole portion, the first depth being less than fifty percent of the second depth.

1 16. (currently amended) The putter head of claim 15, ~~further comprising a sole~~
2 ~~portion rearwardly extending from a lower region of the wall, and~~ wherein the sole portion has
3 an upper surface, and wherein the upper surface has a sight line positioned substantially
4 perpendicular to the strike face.

1 17. (currently amended) The putter head of claim 15, ~~further comprising a sole~~
2 ~~portion rearwardly extending from a lower region of the wall, and~~ wherein the sole portion has

3 an elongate through-sole slot disposed rearward of the insert and generally parallel to the strike
4 face.

1 18. (original) The putter head of claim 15, wherein the wall includes an upper rear
2 edge generally extending from the heel portion to the toe portion, and wherein the upper rear
3 edge is substantially parallel with the strike face to provide a top alignment line.

1 19. (original) The putter head of claim 15, wherein the insert is a lightweight
2 material selected from the group consisting of a urethane, an epoxy resin, a thermoplastic, a
3 thermoset material, an elastomer, and combinations thereof.

1 20. (original) The putter head of claim 15, wherein the insert is made of a
2 translucent material.

1 21. (original) The putter head of claim 15, wherein the insert is formed in a shape
2 selected from the group consisting of trapezoidal, triangular, polygonal, semi-circular, semi-
3 elliptical, and combinations thereof.

1 22. (previously amended) The putter head of claim 15, wherein the recess is
2 defined in a central region of the strike face, and wherein the exposed front facing surface of
3 the insert extends across the central region of the strike face.

1 23. (previously amended) The putter head of claim 15, wherein the recess extends
2 substantially across the entire width of the strike face, and wherein the exposed front facing
3 surface of the insert is generally coplanar with the strike face.

1 24. (original) The putter head of claim 15, wherein the insert is formed of a
2 material having a durometer of between 40 and 65 on a Shore A hardness scale.

1 25. (original) The putter head of claim 15, wherein the insert is formed of a
2 material having a durometer of between 45 and 55 on a Shore A hardness scale.

1 26. (currently amended) The putter head of claim 15, wherein the center portion of
 2 the insert includes a center portion, is positioned between a toe end portion and a heel end
 3 portion, wherein the ~~center~~, toe and heel portions of the insert have ~~first, second and third~~ and
 4 fourth rearward depths, respectively, and wherein the first rearward depth of the center portion
 5 is greater than either of the ~~second and third~~ and fourth rearward depths.

1 27. (currently amended) A putter head comprising:
 2 a toe portion;
 3 a heel portion;
 4 a generally vertically extending wall extending from the toe portion to the heel
 5 portion, the wall having a front strike face and a rear surface;
 6 a rearwardly extending recess defined into the strike face of the wall, the recess
 7 having varying rearward depth;
 8 an insert formed of a first material, the insert substantially filling the recess and
 9 connected to the wall; and
 10 a sole portion rearwardly extending from a lower portion of the wall, the sole
 11 portion having a rearmost surface, the portion having only one elongate through-sole slot, the
 12 through-sole slot disposed rearward of the insert and substantially parallel to the strike face,
 13 the insert including a center portion having a first rearward depth, the putter head having a
 14 second rearward depth measured from the front strike face of the front wall to the rearmost
 15 surface of the sole portion, the first depth being less than fifty percent of the second depth.

1 28. (original) The putter head of claim 27, wherein the sole portion has an upper
 2 surface, and wherein the upper surface has a sight line positioned substantially perpendicular to
 3 the strike face.

1 29. (original) The putter head of claim 27, wherein the wall includes an upper rear
 2 edge generally extending from the heel portion to the toe portion, and wherein the upper rear
 3 edge is substantially parallel with the strike face to provide a top alignment line.

1 30. (previously amended) The putter head of claim 27, wherein the first material of
2 the insert is a lightweight material selected from the group consisting of a urethane, an epoxy
3 resin, a thermoplastic, a thermoset material, an elastomer, and combinations thereof.

1 31. (original) The putter head of claim 27, wherein the insert is formed in a shape
2 selected from the group consisting of trapezoidal, triangular, polygonal, semi-circular, semi-
3 elliptical, and combinations thereof.

1 32. (original) The putter head of claim 27, wherein the recess extends substantially
2 across the entire width of the strike face, and wherein the exposed front surface of the insert is
3 generally coplanar with the strike face.

1 33. (original) The putter head of claim 27, wherein the insert is castably formed to
2 the wall without the use of an adhesive.

1 34. (original) The putter head of claim 27, wherein the insert is formed of a
2 material having a durometer of between 40 and 65 on a Shore A hardness scale.

1 35. (original) The putter head of claim 27, wherein the insert is formed of a
2 material having a durometer of between 45 and 55 on a Shore A hardness scale.
